



Virtual Collaboration SASP Style

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As the leaves start to turn their brilliant shades of color this fall season, the Special Assistant for Strategic Planning (SASP) team is hard at work supporting the development of JAG Guidance 2013, the JAG's annual guidance implementing the vision found in Navy *JAG Corps 2020.1*. This year, we are utilizing virtual collaboration to assist in the development of JAG Guidance 2013. As we prepared to conduct virtual collaboration, we learned of resources and tools already available to the Navy military legal community. We are sharing that information so that you can consider how you might be able to utilize those resources for your daily practice.

In years past, the initial drafting for the annual JAG Guidance was by the office of the Special Assistant for Transformation (SAT). The Assistant Judge Advocates General of the Navy then provided their views, consulting with a wide range of stakeholders. The Judge Advocate General approved the final Guidance. This year, the JAG has appointed a Strategic Planning

Working Group (SPWG), made up of 34 members of the JAG Corps Community. They have been tasked with drafting the strategies for implementation in 2013. They met for a two-day meeting at the Washington Navy Yard, and they continue their collaboration in the virtual workspace, primarily through the use of milBook. milBook is one functional area of milSuite, a DoD-funded program developed and funded specifically to enable online collaboration by organizations. milBook operates similarly to Facebook, and is accessible by persons with a CAC card. We have

established a limited access SPWG group on milBook. Within this collaboration space, SPWG members will be able to post ideas, start discussions, comment on other posted material, access all shared reference material, and even host real-time virtual conferences... all within a CAC-protected environment that requires no password each time it is accessed.

How did we find milBook? We owe a debt of gratitude to Capt. (ret.) Steve Barney, the former Naval Legal Service

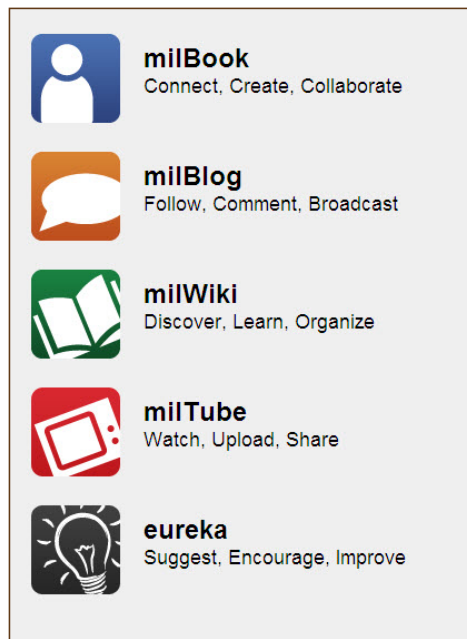


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Command Inspector General. On his return from the Article 6 inspection of Regional Legal Service Office Southeast (RLSO SE), he came to SASP to ask us if we were aware of RLSO SE's utilization of milBook. We immediately reached out to Capt. Richard Giroux, the commanding officer of RLSO SE to find out more. We discovered RLSO SE has a robust presence on milBook, using it for everything from SJA meeting notes and MilJus tracking to collateral duty folders. Given their geographic dispersion, milBook made it easy for command members to share information in an environment that does not allow for a single command shared drive. We have also learned that the newly-appointed professional development officers have formed their own milBook group to share best practices—essential for start-up positions that will literally impact every JAG Corps accession in the next two years.

In further preparation for JAG Guidance planning, SASP met with the Army JAG Corps Knowledge Management team to discuss their current use of milBook. The Army JAG Corps Knowledge Management Office was established just a year ago, and we went to harvest some of their experience and insight. We discovered that they have established communities of practice on milBook, covering broad legal practice areas, e.g., administrative law, legal assistance, and international and operational law.

- **Admin Law:** <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/groups/jagconnect-army-administrative-law>
- **Claims:** <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/groups/jagconnect-army-claims>
- **Criminal Law:** <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/groups/jagconnect-army-criminal-law>
- **Environmental Law:** <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/groups/army-environmental-law-community-of-practice>



- **International and Operational Law:** <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/groups/international-and-operational-law>
- **Labor and Employment:** <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/groups/jagconnect-labor-and-employment-law>
- **Law Office Leadership and Management:** <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/groups/jagconnect-army-lom>
- **Legal Assistance:** <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/groups/army-legal-assistance>

The communities of practice are open to all legal practitioners in DoD, and they welcome Navy practitioners with open arms. To participate in the community of

practice, you need only to visit the URL below, sign up for a milBook account when prompted, and then request access to each group you would like to peruse. You have the option of having notifications about group activity sent directly to your email inbox, which enables you to maintain situational awareness of ongoing discussions without logging into milBook as part of your work routine, but also alerting you to discussions that are pertinent to your work or to which you feel you can contribute.

As a DoD-funded initiative, milBook is free for you and your command to use. milBook is only one portion of milSuite, which includes milBlog, milWiki, milTube, and Eureka, so there are many best practices to be learned. An important limitation to note is that milSuite is not approved for personally identifiable information. If you have any questions about milBook or its potential uses, please feel free to contact any member of the SASP team.

milSuite

